

Google Search Tips.

From a BbC session by Chris Betcher <http://www.googlificationofeverything.com> through Australia eLearning

1. When you are searching, the order of words will return different results. Try it with **new york** and then **york new** You will get different results each time.
Google tries to search for word associations thus **new** followed by **york** implies the city **New York**
2. The search site www.google.com has some extra facilities that www.google.com.au does not. There is a link in the bottom right corner of the main Google search page to toggle between the two systems. So what does the American site (www.google.com) have that's so special?:
 - at the right end of the search box is a microphone symbol. Click it and then say what you want to search for. Its novel and you will get some strange results. For eg asking for 'broadband for seniors' gave 'broadband for swingers'
 - type in **swordfish** and this will return all articles about swordfish. Then, on the left side of the screen, click 'Recipes'. You will not only get thousands of recipes, you will also get (on the left of the screen) some tick boxes where you can specify which ingredients you want or not, as well as cooking time and calorie content.
3. Are you looking for a picture of something? Again enter **swordfish** in the [google.com](http://www.google.com) search box. Now click Images at the left or top of the screen. You will be presented with over 15 million pictures relating to swordfish. Now have a look at the left side of the screen. You will have extra commands for refining the search. For example you can specify what is to be the dominant colour in the images, or the size, or what sort of image - eg Face, Photo, Clipart etc. Have a play to get an idea about it.
4. Are you doing Family History? How would you like to search and read old newspapers? From all over the world? Just go to <http://news.google.com/newspapers> Here you can search across all newspapers. Or search within a specific newspaper - eg The Sydney Morning Herald which has online versions going back to 1830. Either scroll down and find it, or go to <http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=IL5f5cZgg8MC> Use the tiny zoom in and out buttons just above the text of the newspaper. When zoomed in you can move the purple rectangle at the right of the screen to quickly move to another part of the newspaper. Again, have a play.
5. When you search Google for something, the results you get back will be different if you are logged into your Gmail/Google account. Why? Google attempts to 'personalise' the results for you using the information in your profile. To see 'unfiltered' results either sign out of Gmail, or use another browser that is not logged into Gmail.

6. When you search and get the list of sites from Google, hover your mouse cursor at the right hand end of each result and a grey block with 2 chevrons on it will appear, followed shortly afterwards by a miniature of the web page. Try it.
7. Again, get a list of sites using Google. Normally the list of sites you get is 'Everything', however there are some very useful filters on the left side of the results page. For example you can filter the results to only show Images or News, or Videos. Also note the link for 'More' and see what's under it. But yet there's more! Scroll further down the left side and you can filter the list for only recent events.

And then there's yet another link at the very bottom - 'More Search Tools'!! This gives you a Dictionary and Reading Level among other things. The dictionary feature will actually pronounce the word for you - just click the little grey speaker icon at the end of the line below the word. Again, the only way to check these is to have a play.

8. And just when you think that's all there is, click the gear shaped icon near the top right corner and try the settings there. If you have to use pictures and graphics in some document or book you are making then it's a handy way to find pictures and graphics that are not copyright.
9. Would you like to be told about new material on a subject? Or new articles that have your name in them? Or an organisations name? If so then Google Alerts will do that for you. Just click the 'More' link at the top of a Google page and then select 'Even More'. Click 'Alerts' and fill in the search details that you want to be told about and an email address to send to. I don't know how many alerts you can set. There is a link there to manage all the alerts you setup. More stuff to play with.
10. Do you ever get on your high horse about something? Would you really like to support your argument with facts? If so then Google Scholar is for you. You will find it on the same page as the above 'Alerts'. Google Scholar only lists research papers and thesis etc that are peer reviewed. It also gives the options of listing patents and legal arguments. On the results page, for each paper it's found, it will show the number of times that publication has been cited by others, plus links to related articles. Next time you want to really make a point then this is the place to head.
11. Finally, did you know that Google has inbuilt calculators? Try each of these (without the quotation marks) 'Florida time', '6 metres in inches', '12AUD + 3NZD in USD', '600 * 300'